SUBJECTS.

122. *Right of interpellation in the Legislative Council.*

The same member requested—

that the right of interpellation might be conferred on the non-official members of the Legislative Council—a right enjoyed by their brethren in all similarly constituted councils in British India. This, he said, would give the people a ready and constitutional means of bringing their grievances to the notice of the authorities as well as enable the Government to make declarations of policy or reasons inducing them to take particular lines of action and thus avoid unnecessary discussion in the Press.

Dewan.—Why should the power be given to the Legislative Council? This Assembly is more representative and contains a much larger number of members than the Council.

Member.—It will be exercised by the non-official members with greater discretion.

Dewan.—I do not think that the members of this Assembly are incapable of exercising the power with equal discretion.

Member.—The Council meets oftener than the Assembly which meets only once a year.

Dewan's reply.—The Council also does not meet very frequently. Apart from that, however, the power is given to the Legislative Councils in British India because there the people have no other means of getting their grievances and wants placed before the governing body directly by their representatives. This Assembly which is more representative in its character has this privilege already and instead of four or five members interpellating the Government in the Legislative Council, all the hundred members of this selected body have power to put questions and they already know they have the power and have not used it very sparingly. We have here not only member or members of the Executive Government but all the Heads of Departments as well. I tell you this simply to show that the analogy set up between British India and Travancore does not hold good in this respect. As we have another instrument for attaining the object in view, and a more efficient instrument, I do not see the necessity for the right being conferred on the non-official members of the Legislative Council. They are not, moreover, a representative body. The annual meeting of the Assembly affords full scope for questions being put on all subjects connected with the Administration.

The same member urged—

that qualified citizens living within the municipal

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